

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NÚRAFSHÁN

Vol. 3.

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No. 29

Editorial Notes.

There is perhaps no want more clearly evident than that of a Christian vernacular literature. The change of front on the part of non-Christians in general renders much of the literature of the past generation practically useless for present use. Besides, it is a well recognized principle that every generation requires a literature of its own—a literature that speaks its language—a literature that is up to date. For some reason there seems to be less interest in this subject than formerly. The demands upon time in connection with the village work are so great that many, who are best qualified to prepare the literature needed, do not feel able to undertake the duty. These and other causes doubtless account for the paucity of new books and tracts published by the Societies of today. On the other hand, non-Christians are active and are pouring forth streams of literature which must do great evil unless promptly met by Christian scholarship, through the press.

Appropos to this subject, a lady proposes to translate into Urdu Dr. Pierson's *Many Infallible Proofs*. She is exceedingly anxious not to undertake a work already begun by some

one else. Will our readers please inform us if they know of any one having undertaken the translation of this book.

While writing on this subject, may we be permitted to say that most of our workers are losing many grand opportunities for good by neglecting to use literature already published. The man who travels from town to town preaching but who fails to leave the printed page behind runs many risks of being soon forgotten. To have left a book or a tract would have increased many times the chances of his message yielding a fruitful harvest. Perhaps the failure to use the printed message accounts in good part for the lack of zeal in producing new books and tracts.

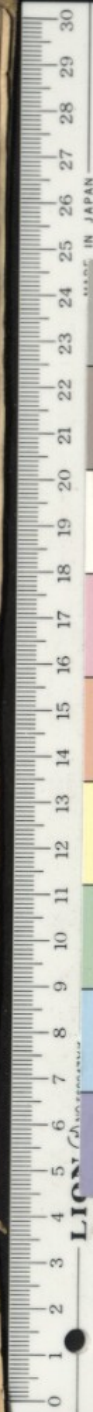
This want of faith is sadly prevalent in the Home Land. Newspapers and magazines have been so multiplied as to monopolize the time and the interest of even Christian people. Tracts are regarded with indifference by multitudes whose fathers were converted by the reading of them. What wonder if there should be indifference among their representatives? There is need of a return to the agency which has done so much to popularize the thought of the Gospel. We can not in India claim that the newspapers and magazines have usurped the place of the book and tract. The newspapers are not patro-

nized as they should be. Many communities are without a vernacular Christian paper of any kind.

If we needed any further argument to prove our contention that there is a decided want of zeal in spread of a printed gospel, we might call attention to the decline of colportage as an evangelistic agency. And yet, there are many men who are put forward as preachers, who would accomplish better work as colporters. The thoughts of others, presented through the medium of the press, would accomplish more than their own preaching now accomplishes.

The preparations now being made for the World's Economical Congress of Missions to be held in the city of New York in 1900, are hardly encouraging to those who have been busily circulating statements to the effect that Christianity is in its wane. We congratulate those brethren whose furlough will permit them to be present at this conference.

The scene at the death of the late Sir Monier Williams was peculiarly impressive. After twenty-four hours of prostration, the noble patient suddenly roused himself and dictated a final confession of faith in Jesus Christ as the only saviour of men. To this he added a prayer for Divine forgiveness and acceptance. Correcting the manuscript with his own hand, he signed it, thus leaving a legacy of faith to the world he had enlightened by his knowledge. Laying down the pen he soon after closed his eyes in sleep.



Current Thought.

The Brakeman at Church.

The *Burlington Hawkeye* gets off the following good thing on "The Brakeman at Church:"

On the road once more, with Lebanon fading away in the distance, the fat passenger drumming idly on the window pane, the cross passenger sound asleep, and the tall, thin passenger reading "Gen. Grant's Tour Around the World," and wondering why "Blair's Keystone Stationery" should be painted above the doors of "A Buddhist Temple at Benares." To me comes the brakeman, and seating himself on the arm of the seat, says:

"I went to church yesterday."

"Yes?" I said, with that interested inflection that asks for more. "And what church did you attend?"

"Which do you guess?" he asked.

"Some Union Mission church?" I hazarded.

"No," he said, "I don't like to run on these branch roads very much. I don't often go to church, and when I do, I want to run on the main line, where your run is regular and you go on schedule time, and don't have to wait on connections, I don't like to run on a branch. Good enough but I don't like it."

"Episcopal?" I guessed.

"Limited express," he said, "all palace cars and two dollars extra for a seat, fast time, and only stop at the big stations. Nice line but too exhaustive for a brakeman. All train men in uniform, conductor's punch and lantern silver plated, and no train boys allowed. Then the passengers are allowed to talk back to the conductor, and it makes them too free and easy. No, I couldn't stand the palace cars. Rich road, though. Don't often hear of a receiver being appointed for that line. Some mighty nice people travel on it, too."

"Universalist?" I suggested.

"Broad gauge," said the brakeman, "does too much complimentary business. Everybody travels on a pass. Conductor doesn't get a fare once in fifty miles. Stops at all flag stations, and won't run in anything but a union depot. No smoking-car on the train. Train orders are rather vague, though, and the trainmen don't get along well with the passengers. No, I don't go to the Universalist, though I know some awfully good men who run on that road."

"Presbyterian?" I asked.

"Narrow gauge eh?" said the brakeman "pretty track, straight as a rule; tunnel right through a mountain rather than go around it; spirit-level grade; passengers have to show their tickets before they get on the train. Mighty strict road, but the cars are a little narrow; have to sit one in a seat and no room in the aisle to dance. Then there is no stop over tickets allowed; got to go straight through to the station you're ticketed for or you can't get on at all. When the car's full, no extra coaches; cars are built at the shops to hold just so many, and nobody else allowed on. But you don't often hear of an accident on that road. It's run right up to the rules."

"May-be you joined the Free-Thinkers?" I said.

"Scrub road," said the brakeman, "dirt road-bed and no ballast, no timecard and no train dispatcher. All trains run wild, and every engineer makes his own time, just as he pleases. Smoke if you want to; kind of a go-as-you please road. Too many side tracks, and every switch wide open all the time, with the switchman sound asleep and the target-lamp dead out. Get on as you please and off when you want to. Don't have to show your tickets, and the conductor isn't expected to do anything but amuse the passengers. No, sir, I was offered a pass, but I don't like the line. I don't like to travel on a road that has no terminus. Do you know, sir, I asked a division superintendent where that road run to, and he said he hoped to die if he knew. I asked him if the general superintendent could tell me, and he said he didn't believe they had a general superintendent, and if they had he didn't know anything more about the road than the passengers. I asked him who he reported to, and he said, 'Nobody.' I asked a conductor who he got his orders from, and he said he 'didn't take orders from any living man or dead ghost.' And

when I asked the engineer who he got his orders from he said, 'he'd like to see anybody give him orders; he'd run that train to suit himself, or he'd run her in the ditch.' Now you see, sir, I'm a railroad man, and I don't care to run on a road that has no time, or makes no connections, runs nowhere, and has no superintendent. It may be all right but I've railroaded too long to understand it."

"May be you went to the Congregational church?" I said.

"Popular road," said the brakeman, "an old road, too; one of the very oldest in this country. Good road-bed and comfortable cars. Well managed road, too; directors don't interfere with division superintendents and train orders. Road's mighty popular, but it's pretty independent, too. Yes, didn't one of the division superintendents down East discontinue one of the oldest stations on this line two or three years ago? But it's a mighty pleasant road to travel on. Always has such a splendid class of passengers."

"Did you try the Methodist?" I said.

"Now you're shouting," he said with some enthusiasm. "Nice road, eh? Fast time and plenty of passengers. Engines carry a power of steam, and don't you forget it; steam gauge shows a hundred and enough all the time. Lively road; when the conductor shouts 'all aboard,' you can hear him to the next station. Every train-light shines like a headlight. Stop-over checks are given on all through tickets; passengers can drop off the train as often as he likes, do the station two or three times and hop on the next revival train that comes thundering along. Good, whole-souled, companionable conductors; ain't a road in the country where the passengers feel more at home. No passes; every passenger pays full traffic rates for his ticket. Wesleyan air-brakes on all trains, too; pretty safe road, but I didn't ride over it yesterday."

"Perhaps you tried the Baptist?" I guessed once more.

"Ah, ah!" said the brakeman, "she's a daisy, ain't she? River road, beautiful, curves; sweeps around anything to keep close to the river, but it's all steel rail and rock ballast, single track all the way and not a side track from the round-house to the terminus. It takes a heap of water to run it through; double tanks at every station, and there isn't an engine in the shops that can pull a pound or run a mile with less than two gauges. But it

runs through river road side and steady el way til fountain sir, I'll time for tions and dust blow yesterday, around fo basket pu pass me; little man hour's ru the pass you, Pilgr when you

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runs through a lovely country, these river roads always do; river on one side and hills on other and it's steady climb up the grade all the way till the run ends where the fountainhead of the river begins. Yes, sir, I'll take the river road every time for a lovely trip, sure connections and good time, and no prairie dust blowing in at the windows. And yesterday, when the conductor came around for the tickets with a little basket punch, I didn't ask him to pass me; but I paid my fare like a little man; twenty-five cents for an hour's run and a little concert by the passengers assembled. I tell you, Pilgrim, you take the river and when you want—

But just here the loud whistle from the engine announced a station and the brakeman hurried to the door shouting:

"Zionsville! This train makes no stops between here and Indianapolis!"

Robert J. Burdette.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE I. B. R. A. IN LONDON.

The above meeting was held in London on April 18th, and was a great success. R. Souttar, Esq., M. P., was in the chair. We cannot do better than make some extracts from the Report presented by the indefatigable Secretary, Mr. C. Waters.

The year 1898 has been one of steady work and growth, but with little "history." During the year 632,000 English certificates of membership were issued, which was 12,000 in advance of 1897. This increase is less than usual, and there are several reasons for this which are not altogether unsatisfactory. It is, however, a substantial addition to the already splendid membership of our Association, and may, perhaps, be considered a satisfactory advance. But remembering the large increases of previous years, our ambition to reach the million membership, and the wide and only partially occupied field which lies before us, it has been thought desirable to call up our energies in order to secure something better.

The distribution of these English-speaking members is as follows:—England (including the London District, 109,000), 519,000; Wales (including those supplied with Welsh cards), 19,000; Scotland, 11,000; Ireland, 18,000. Total in the United Kingdom, 567,000. The Australian Colonies stand for 30,000 members,

and New Zealand for 7,000. In the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia nearly 10,000 have been enrolled; Newfoundland 400; and in the United States, 10,000. South Africa includes nearly 4,000 and 800 in other parts of the continent. India, Ceylon, Burma, and the Straits Settlements number 4,400. The Association is well represented in the West Indian Islands—Jamaica, with three district secretaries including 6,000; Barbadoes, 1,600; Tobago, 500; and another 2,000 distributed in ten other islands. In the South American continent the principal membership is 1,200 in British Guiana, and 200 in Chili. The remaining membership is in smaller numbers scattered in various places throughout the world. These figures do not include the foreign members who are supplied with cards in their own languages. The Christian workers in these countries find it difficult to secure such an effective organization as exists for the English work, and the methods of distribution vary with the circumstances, so that it is not possible to tabulate the actual membership. There are however, many thousands of Bible readers who while reading in Bohemian, Dutch, Esthonian, Finnish, German, Italian, Lettish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Welsh, Bengali, Burmese, Gujarati, Hindi, Kanarese, Karen, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil, Urdu, Kaffir, or Samoan are indeed receiving in their hearts the same blessed message of salvation, and uniting with us in this world-wide Bible study.

The fund devoted to the support of the Rev. R. Burges as Sunday School Missionary in India, and to assist in the provision of Sunday School literature, has been well sustained by voluntary offerings of the members, the amount for the year being £600 19s. 11d.

Sir Henry Hawkins was once presiding over a long, tedious, and uninteresting trial, and was listening apparently with great attention to a very long-winded speech from a learned counsel. After awhile he made a pencil memorandum, folded it, and sent it by the usher to the queen's counsel in question who, unfolding the paper, found these words: "Patience competition. Gold medal, Sir Henry Hawkins; honourable mention, Job."

A REQUEST.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In the number of the Supplement to the "Nūr Afshār" for June 2nd there appeared an advertisement of a new Panjābī Magazine for women, called the "Dharam dā Chānān." We are very anxious to make this magazine as instructive, interesting, and attractive as possible, and on this account we would like to have the help of others in filling it with such matter. Therefore we insert this letter, and beg of all who have the welfare of the women in the Panjāb at heart, to help in making it a great success by sending such articles as will be lively and interesting enough to attract and suit the dull minds of most of the women with whom we have to deal.

We want this magazine to be such as the most ignorant can understand and not *only* for the better educated and to attain this end, it must be published in the simplest language possible. Will friends who wish to help kindly try to make their articles as plain as they can.

We want religious and secular matter, easy bits on science, hygiene, natural history, and such scraps of news as will still be fresh three months after publication.

Those who cannot write in the Gurmukhi character, could do so in Romanized Panjābī. Some do not know the language well enough, but do know the women and their needs, let them write in English.

If you would, just keep the women and the magazine in mind when you are reading, and snap up the bits and scraps you come across, which you think would be suitable, and send them to us, it would help the paper wonderfully. Many scraps have I collected which have served me well as illustrations on warning, from Pansy, Sunday at Home, Quiver and other books and papers, once even from Dr. Barnardo's 'Night and Day,' which story proved to one woman at least, most impressive.

Please send all such contributions to

Miss E. M. Anderson,

Mission House,

Gill.

Ludhiana Dist.

P. S. Won't some of you engage to be permanent helpers? so that I can look to some writers who will send matter for insertion in each quarterly number.

Telegrams

London, July 13.

A Pretoria despatch states that Mr. Conyngham Greene, the British Agent in the Transvaal, has had a long interview with the State Secretary.

The Capetown branch of the Afrikaner Bond has approved of the new franchise proposal of the Transvaal, and also the proposal for arbitration by judicial experts of all differences between Great Britain and the Transvaal over the Convention.

London, July 13.

The *Times*, in an article on the cable rates, generally supports the claim for cheaper telegrams to Egypt and India.

London, July 13.

In consequence of several accidents at Bisley, the Council of the National Rifle Association have condemned the Mark IV ammunition as being too dangerous to competitors, and have reverted to Mark II.

Colonel Haddon has visited Bisley to enquire into the matter and report to the War Office.

London, July 13.

The cruiser *Thetis* has been floated without having sustained any damage.

Calcutta, July 14.

A great sensation has been caused at Raneeganj by the murder of Mr. Ironsides, an employ of the Bengal Paper Mills, and an assault on Mr. Williams, both lately out from England. It has transpired that on Tuesday night an altercation took place between Mr. Williams and the darwans of the Mills. Mr. Ironsides, who was on night duty, rushed to Mr. Williams' assistance, and in the *melee* which followed Mr. Williams escaped. Next morning Mr. Ironsides was reported missing, and late in the evening his body was discovered in a tank of rolling slush with a severe wound in the temple. Mr. Emslie, Joint Magistrate, and Mr. Comber, District Superintendent of Police, are holding an investigation. As one result of the investigation eleven mill darwans have been arrested and charged with the murder. The deceased was shortly to have been married.

Simla July 13.

The clerks of the Public Works Department petitioned the Viceroy yesterday against wintering at Simla.

London, July 14.

Mr. Chamberlain telegraphed on Wednesday to Pretoria asking for a copy of the new franchise proposals and for an explanation of certain clauses therein, and also suggested the postponement of the Volksraad debate on the new measures.

The Transvaal replied that the debate had already begun but the Raad would consider any friendly suggestion.

The Transvaal Volksraad has passed two clauses of the new Franchise Bill.

In his speech at the opening of the Cape Parliament Sir Alfred Milner merely said that relations with adjoining states and colonies were friendly.

The question having been raised in the Dominion House of Commons as to offering Canadian troops for service in South Africa, the Premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, said he hoped that the Transvaal would submit without hostilities.

The text of the new Boer proposals is most complex, the proposed concessions being hedged by elaborate limitations. The *Times*

described them as a mockery, the *Daily Telegraph* characterises them as a rignmarole of inconsistencies, and the *Daily Chronicle* says they are curiously complicated.

London, July 14.

Forty-eight Ceylon estates are offering tea for sale, and much Indian tea is also announced for sale at next Monday's auction.

It is believed the importers will yield to the dispute over the 1lb draft allowance.

Madras, July 14.

Bishop Morley, of Tinnevely, writes to the *Madras Mail*, stating that a meeting of the Christian community was held at Palamcottah on the 10th current, when a report was presented of the approximate amount of losses sustained by Christians in the recent riots, and it was determined to make public appeal for aid. It appears that about 150 houses belonging to Christians have been burnt and 200 were looted, while three churches were burnt and six looted. The damage to Mission property amounts to Rs. 2,000, while the loss to the Christians is estimated at Rs. 25,000.

Calcutta, July 14.

Owing to very heavy rain in Calcutta on Thursday, four buildings in different parts of the town collapsed and two persons were killed. Heavy floods in the Sibsagar district have burst the bunds of the Disang and Dhing rivers, and the water has submerged a large tract causing considerable damage to the early rice crop. The rice crop has also been damaged by floods in the Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong districts.

Bombay July 14.

For the last two weeks the Bombay wheat and seeds trade has been greatly disorganised by a dispute between the Bazaar dealers who constitute the Grain Merchants Association and most of the exporters, European and native. The bazaar custom hitherto has been to sell wheat and seeds on net weight, buyers returning empty bags as soon as possible, and dealers using them again several times over for despatching goods from up country. The Grain Merchants Association has summarily decided that from July 1st, the old terms should be discarded, and replaced by the condition that new bags should be supplied by the dealers and taken over and paid for by buyers. The exporters refused to accept those terms, and a deadlock has arisen which has largely suspended the wheat and seeds trade. The Bombay papers say that every additional charge on produce in Bombay will only help Karachi and Calcutta to increase their volume of trade. It is believed here that the Exporters will compel the native dealers to withdraw their proposal.

London, July 15.

A later despatch says the flagship *Doris* which left Delagoa Bay yesterday, has sailed for Zanzibar.

The Military Commandant of Victoria suggests the organization of a contingent representing combined Australia for service in the Transvaal in the event of hostilities.

London, July 16.

It is understood that the Progressives in the Transvaal Volksraad favour rejecting the draft of the new franchise proposals and substituting a simple measure. The Afrikaner Bond is holding meetings in Cape Colony approving the franchise proposals of the Transvaal.

There is a fall in the situation over the Transvaal question. It is rumoured that Sir Alfred Milner will take strong action if the Cape Ministry opposes Imperial measures. Fifteen officers and 213 men of Royal Engineers and Army Service Corps sailed for the Cape yesterday.

A despatch from Johannesburg states that a local foundry is casting dynamite mortars.

London, July 15.

The official account of the death of the Czaritch says that His Imperial Highness died from hemorrhage of the lungs while taking a solitary ride on a motor cycle. Only a peasant woman tended him in his last moments.

London, July 17.

In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Balfour, in the course of statement on public business before the House, promised that there should be a debate on South Africa, which was essential under the present circumstances.

Mr. Wyndham, Under Secretary of State for War, in reply to a question explained that the batteries recently sent to the Cape, were reliefs, but the batteries already there would remain if they were required.

London, July 17.

The *Times*, in a leading article, says that Japan to-day takes her place as the equal of the civilised Powers. It congratulates Japanese statesmen upon the achievement of a great task and having gained their end because they deserved too. The new regime, says the *Times*, will probably strengthen the many ties uniting Englishmen and Japanese.

Madras July 17.

Srinivasa Iyer, Sub-Magistrate of Satur, who was at Sivakasi on the 6th June when the riots occurred, has been suspended pending final orders. Sivakasi temple was opened on Friday, when a small purificatory service was performed. Six sepoy under a non-commissioned officer guard the temple during the *puga*. In the trial of a riot case from the village near Sivakasi, the witnesses stated that when the Shanars' houses were looted, the women were grossly outraged, regardless of age. The witnesses deposed to a long existing caste combination and the holding of public meetings against the Shanars, owing to their subscribing for the Kamuthierne One of the six ringleaders in the sack of Sivakasi was arrested near Sivagunga in the Madura district yesterday, rewards for their arrest having been offered.

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Office desks—square top, green baize, 5½ ft. by 3 ft.—two drawers and four doors with lock. Price Rs. 30.

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